

APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program
 FY-2011 Treatment Guidelines
 Final Version 01/26/11

The goals of the APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Programs are to 1) conduct surveys in 17 Western States; 2) provide technical assistance to land managers; and 3) when funds permit, suppress grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on federal, tribal, state, and/or private rangeland. The Plant Protection Act of 2000 provides APHIS the authority to take these actions. The following guidelines should be used when a pesticide treatment is necessary to reduce a grasshopper or Mormon cricket outbreak to below outbreak levels. The final determination of whether a cooperative suppression treatment program on federal rangeland is warranted and/or feasible will be made by PPQ, based on the land manager's written request and the best available information.

General Guidelines for Grasshopper / Mormon Cricket Treatments

1. All treatments must be conducted in accordance with the Plant Protection Act of 2000 and relevant APHIS policies.
 - a. Treatments must adhere to federal environmental laws and statutes including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Water Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).
 - b. NEPA compliance will consist of:
 - i. the 2002 Environmental Impact Statement, and;
 - ii. site-specific environmental assessments (EAs). EAs will be in accordance with national and/or local Memorandums of Understanding between PPQ and the federal land management agency (or agencies) and/or tribal authorities. Upon completion of an EA, the PPQ State Plant Health Director or his/her designee will, if appropriate, sign a "Finding of No Significant Impact", after which planning for a treatment can continue.
 - c. Compliance with the Endangered Species Act will be assured by consulting with local U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offices in situations where:
 - i. threatened or endangered species occur in the area;
 - ii. pesticides or application procedures to be utilized have not been addressed in the Programmatic Biological Opinion of 1995.
 - iii. **Consultations with the local tribal representatives will take place to fully inform tribal lands of the possible actions PPQ may take in the coming year on tribal lands and neighboring lands.**
 - d. FIFRA compliance will be assured by following the product label.
 - e. **NPDES Permits will be obtained if necessary.**
2. One of the following pesticides that are labeled for rangeland use may be used for a treatment of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets:
 - a. Sevin XLR plus
 - b. 2% or 5% Carbaryl bait
 - c. Dimilin 2L
 - d. Fyfanon ULV

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3. The federal government will bear the cost of treatment up to 100 percent on federal, tribal, and Trust land, 50 percent of the cost on state land, and 33 percent of cost on private land. **The State may supply 33 percent of the cost on private land, if the State elects not to supply their share, the private landowner will supply 66% of the costs. There is a 16.15% overhead charge on Federal Involvement in treatments on any lands that a cost share is involved. The cost share funds are obligated to add the 16.15% to their involved share of the costs.**

The federal government's participation in the cost share is contingent on allocation and availability of funds. Funding sources for suppression treatment programs may include appropriated funds, contingency funds, commodity credit corporation (CCC) funds, land management agency funds, and/or other funding resources. PPQ will conduct or fund surveys from the congressional appropriation, then may conduct suppression treatments if funds remain.

4. In the absence of available funding or in the place of PPQ funding, the federal land management agency, tribal authority or other party/ies may opt to reimburse PPQ for suppression treatments. Interagency agreements or reimbursement agreements must be completed prior to the start of treatments which will be charged thereto.

Land managers are responsible for the overall management of rangeland under their control to prevent or reduce the severity of grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks. Land managers are encouraged to have implemented Integrated Pest Management Systems prior to requesting a treatment. PPQ and/or its designated cooperator may conduct suppression treatments on federal/tribal lands only if requested in writing by the federal land manager and/or tribal authority for Trust lands. A rancher group should nominate a spokesman or chairperson who will notify the State to prepare a letter of request on behalf of the ranchers who wish to participate. The letter of request must come to APHIS from the State. Rancher's share of the cost will be held in Escrow with Plant Protection and Quarantine.

5. There are situations where APHIS may be requested to treat rangeland where within the area to be treated is cropland (typically less than 10 percent of the infested area). In those situations the crop owner pays the entire treatment costs on the croplands. Note: the product being considered must be label for the crop to be treated. It is at the discretion of the State Plant Health Director to review the area to be treated, determining if the cropland to be included will make the treatment blocks an effective program or not. And to consider that 10% cropland may be a reasonable figure for this project but a figure reaching 20% may also be reasonable. Western Region is recommending being very cautious in going over 20%; good justification will need to be in place.
6. In some cases, rangeland treatments may be conducted by other federal agencies (e.g., Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Bureau of Indian Affairs) or by non-federal entities (e.g., Grazing Association or County Pest District). PPQ may choose to assist these groups in a variety of ways, such as:
 - a. loaning equipment;

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- b. providing materials and pesticides (pesticides must be appropriately labeled for non-USDA use).
- c. contributing in-kind services such as surveys to determine insect species, instars, and infestation levels;
- d. monitoring for effectiveness of the treatment
- e. **giving technical advice**

A cooperative agreement is needed when the assistance by PPQ represents significant monetary value (e.g., providing pesticides or loaning equipment).

7. Prior to initiating treatments funded by or through PPQ, the following must be prepared by the State Plant Health Director's office and approved by the Western Regional Office:
- a. Project Planning and Reporting Worksheet
 - i. Part A: The Detailed Work Plan
 - 1. Work Checklist (including a map)
 - ii. Part B: Aerial Contract Site Specific Description
 - 1. Complete and send copies to the contracting officer and the Western Regional Office.
 - b. **Completed documents will be downloaded into the Grasshopper Treatment SharePoint site for review and approval.**
 - c. **The EAs for suppression programs will be downloaded into the GH Treatment SharePoint site. It is optional for other EAs to be downloaded.**

<http://ppqwrsharepoint.we.aphis.gov/wdp/ghtreatments/default.aspx>

8. State-registered beekeepers shall be notified in advance of proposed rangeland treatments. **In addition to beekeepers those involved in the production of organic food will also be notified in advance of proposed rangeland treatments.** Observation aircraft may be used to check for bee yards in the proposed area. Non-treated buffer zones should be established for pollinators (e.g., alkali, leafcutter or honey bees) if stipulated in the EA and required by the pesticide label.
9. Aerial treatment contracts will adhere to the 2011 Statement of Work formerly known as the Prospectus. **Starting in 2010 all aerial applicators must have a background check. The background checks are only good for 120 days, so all pilots will need to renew their background checks for the 2011 Treatment Season. Information on finger printing and documentation can be found on MRPBS web site for contractors: <http://fbo.gov> Additional information can be found on the GH Treatment SharePoint site such as the Directive 4620.1**
10. The PPQ State Office will provide a weekly update to the Western Regional Office on acres treated and pesticides used; this information will be entered into the Western Region Treatment Database. **This information will be continually updated until the final information is entered into the database.**

<http://ppqwr.aphis.usda.gov/westernregion/Default.aspx?alias=ppqwr.aphis.usda.gov/westernregion/grasshopper>

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- a. A weekly reporting of each State's Treatment progress will be entered into the Grasshopper Treatment SharePoint site by close of business each Monday. A template is furnished on the site. The information will be entered into the file under your State heading; Weekly GH/MC Reporting.**
- 11. Upon completion of each grasshopper or Mormon cricket suppression program, the PPQ state office will submit Part C: Post Treatment Report of the Project Planning and Reporting Worksheet. Part C will be submitted to the Western Regional Office within 30 days of completion of project. Treatment costs information will be entered into the treatment database also within 30 days of completion. The Western Regional Office will be contacted if additional time is needed.**
 - a. In the case of private land, the accounting spreadsheet will be forwarded to the cooperative agreements unit for processing. Work with the cooperative agreements unit for cost distributions to the private landowners and that all accounting will be done within 30 days of completion of treatment program.**
 - b. Starting in 2011 all funds received from private landowners/managers will be sent to the WR Office to be placed in a trust account under the individual DWP. Work with the agreements section on details.**

2011 Operational Procedures

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR ALL AERIAL AND GROUND APPLICATIONS

- 1. Follow all applicable federal, state, tribal and local laws and regulations in conducting grasshopper and Mormon cricket suppression treatments.**
- 2. Conduct scoping programs to allow public participation in the decision making process. Record the What, Where, and When of these public scoping programs.**
- 3. Notify federal, state and tribal land managers and private cooperators of grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks on their lands. Describe estimated boundaries, severity of the infestation, and treatment options. Request the land manager to advise PPQ of any sensitive sites that may exist in the proposed treatment areas.**
- 4. Obtain request(s), in writing, from land managers or landowners for suppression treatments to be undertaken on their land.**
- 5. Notify residents within treatment areas, or their designated representatives, prior to proposed operations. Advise them of control method to be used, proposed method of application, and precautions to be taken.**
- 6. Avoid residences and other premises whose occupants are opposed to insecticide treatments. In cases when state law requires treatment, but landowners or occupants are opposed to the**

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treatments, PPQ will cooperate to the extent possible and as authorized by federal and state laws.

7. Instruct program personnel in the use of equipment, materials and procedures; supervise to ensure procedures are properly followed and safety is first.
8. All entry- and journeyman-level employees in a professional series, or employees identified by members of the PPQET (or their designee), who in the performance of official duties, directly supervise, use, or monitor the use of any pesticide whether classified for general or restricted use, must complete Pesticide Certification Training (PCT).

Temporary, part time, summer hires, letter of authorities (LA's), or other intermittent PPQ employees normally receive close supervision from a certified applicator. They are not required to complete PCT unless a member of the PPQET (or their designee) or local jurisdictions require such certification.

Each Suppression Program with an independent contractor will have a certified aerial/ground treatment manager on site. Each State will have at least one COR available to assist in GH/MC suppression programs.

9. Do not apply insecticides directly to water bodies (defined herein as reservoirs, lakes, ponds, pools left by seasonal streams, springs, wetlands, and perennial streams and rivers).

Furthermore, provide the following buffers for water bodies:

- 500-foot buffer with aerial liquid insecticides
- 200-foot buffer with aerial bait
- 50-foot buffer with ground bait.

10. Use one of the following disposal methods (in order of preference) for pesticide containers:

- a) Use full service contracts and require the contractor to properly store and dispose of pesticide containers.
- b) Require chemical companies, distributors, or suppliers to accept the triple-rinsed containers.
- c) Crush and/or puncture the empty triple-rinsed containers and dispose of the scrap metal. Report the destruction on Form AD-112 to Property Services, Field Servicing Office, Minneapolis, MN.
- d) Other suitable methods, as approved locally in concurrence with Safety, Health and Environmental Security (Lori Miller, 301-734-0626).

11. Conduct mixing, loading, and unloading in an approved area where an accidental spill would not contaminate a water body. In the event of an accidental spill, follow the procedures set

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forth in PPQ Guidelines for Managing Pesticide Spills (USDA APHIS, *Treatment Manual*) and the 2007 Aerial Application Manual.

12. All APHIS project personnel will have baseline cholinesterase tests before the first application of AChE inhibiting insecticides, such as organophosphates or carbamates (i.e., no testing required for dimilin usage), and on a routine basis as advised by Federal Occupational Health.
13. PPQ will assess and monitor rangeland programs for the efficacy of the treatment, to verify that a control program has properly been implemented and treatments fall within our guidelines.
14. Medical clearance and fit testing is Mandatory prior to any respirator use. Refer to the Grasshopper Treatment SharePoint site under Safety for additional details.

SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR AERIAL APPLICATIONS

1. Pre-spray reconnaissance flights or ground orientation trips may be conducted to ensure that pilots are familiar with program area boundaries, buffers, and areas that are not to be treated.
2. Make the following available to relevant personnel in advance of any treatment: stock safety kits, pesticide spill kits, thermometers, flagging material, wind gauges, spray-deposit samplers, and daily aircraft records.
3. Whenever possible, plan aerial ferrying and turnaround routes to avoid flights over congested areas, water bodies, and other sensitive areas that are not to be treated.
4. Do not apply while school buses are operating in the treatment area. Do not apply within 500 feet of schools or recreational facilities.

SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR GROUND APPLICATIONS

1. All PPQ personnel performing treatments with all terrain vehicles and/or ground application equipment will have the proper training and safety training to operate all terrain vehicles and/or ground application equipment prior to actual treatment operation.
2. All PPQ personnel performing treatments with all terrain vehicles will be required to wear prescribed safety equipment while performing treatment operation.
3. **Refer to the Grasshopper Treatment SharePoint site under Safety for further details on Safety equipment requirements. Also contact the WR Safety Officer for further details and/or questions.**